

Risk Factors Associated with Prevalence of Autism

The following conditions would suggest that the child/young person may have a higher risk of having autistic spectrum disorder:

- A sibling with autism
- Birth defects associated with central nervous system malformation and/or dysfunction, including cerebral palsy
- Gestational age less than 35 weeks
- Parental schizophrenia-like psychosis or affective disorder
- Maternal use of sodium valproate in pregnancy
- Intellectual disability
- Neonatal encephalopathy or epileptic encephalopathy, including infantile spasms
- Chromosomal disorders such as Down's syndrome
- Genetic disorders such as fragile X
- Muscular dystrophy
- Neurofibromatosis
- Tuberous sclerosis

Taken from NICE Guideline CG128, Autism in under 19s: recognition, referral and diagnosis. [Link: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/chapter/1-recommendations>]